

STANFORD UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

STANFORD MEDICAL CENTER
300 PASTEUR DRIVE, PALO ALTO, CALIFORNIA

DEPARTMENT OF GENETICS

DAvenport 1-1200
Ext. 3032

February 9, 1963

Dear Luca--

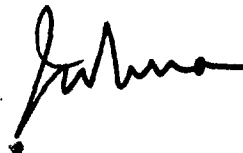
I realize I am far behind in other correspondence I owe you, and will get to this soon. Meanwhile, I did want to send you this material, as I think it has some bearing on your own studies. In any case, you may have a unique opportunity to get family data on birthdate correlations within kindreds and between spouses -- at least I hope this is within your possibilities from church records. It will certainly take that kind of control before any useful inferences could be drawn from performance records -- which again you should have a unique opportunity to generate, according to what you told me about school records.

Have you thought any more about this yourself? Is the idea of the seasonal profile as a signature a new one, or do you know older literature on it?

I should also remind about the relationship of birth-season effects to your studies on parental and grandparental age effects on sex ratio. There is of course substantial confounding in the complex of maternal age/region/..other stratifications/ birth season/ sex ratio, and I will be amazed if you get a clean result in your studies. But if (as I hope) you've gotten not only the parental ages but their birthdates, you will have some extrardinarly valuable material. We have too many curves to know what to send you, but at least look at the reference 3 cited in enclosure.

My own intentions are to collect some more "output" data of profiles -- e.g. mental retardation, and the NSF register of U.S. Ph.D.s, just to illustrate the problem, and publish them together with some version of this note. Besides yourself, I would imagine that Newcombe may have the most extensive files for "input" data, i.e., the subsamples of the national vital statistics. ("Output": classified by performance; "input": classified by origin of the individuals). This has been great fun, but I do not think I dare let myself be tempted to go more deeply into demography. However, if I can find some good source of specialized inputs, e.g. birthdates of children of professors or doctors, through some insurance records, it would be tempting to look for special countertrends. Family correlations would already give much of this information if a large enough sample were available.

As ever,



LT. J.P. KENNEDY, JR., LABORATORIES FOR MOLECULAR MEDICINE, DEDICATED TO RESEARCH IN MENTAL RETARDATION

MOLECULAR BIOLOGY

HEREDITY

NEUROBIOLOGY

DEVELOPMENTAL MEDICINE